

## SUFFS ON WATCH FOR SCHEMES TO HOLD UP VOTING

Fear Improper Manipulations by Officials in Some of the States.

WANT SPECIAL ACTION.

Governors of Some States May Call Sessions of the Legislatures.

By David Lawrence.  
(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (Copyright, 1920).—Assuming the ratification of the suffrage amendment by Tennessee or other States, there are some legal obstacles that must be overcome before women everywhere will be permitted to vote in the Presidential elections this year.

While the woman leaders do not anticipate much difficulty and believe that the public official who dares to prevent women from voting this time is merely committing political suicide, nevertheless it is possible for reluctant State officials with a grudge against woman suffrage to manipulate matters in such a way as to prevent the qualification of woman voters this year.

The Nineteenth amendment to the Constitution merely declares that women shall have the right to vote, but another article in the Constitution gives to the states the full right to determine the qualifications of voters. Anticipating just such trouble, the National Woman's Party made a canvass of all states where it seemed as if special legislation were necessary to enable women to vote this year if the Federal amendment were ratified.

Minnesota, North Dakota, Missouri, Massachusetts, Virginia and Maine passed such legislation at the same time that their legislatures were in special session to ratify the Federal amendment. Georgia, Rhode Island and West Virginia have now done so, though in two instances the day for registering voters has already passed. Florida, Vermont and Connecticut have had no sessions of their respective legislatures, so nothing could be done in the way of enabling legislation.

SOME GOVERNORS MAY CALL SPECIAL SESSIONS.

On the other hand, it is fully expected that the Governors of the last three States now will call special sessions to permit women to qualify as voters.

The question has been a difficult one to determine for in most cases when the National Woman's Party line appealed to the Attorney Gen-

erals of the several States for a ruling, these officials have been reluctant to say what their opinion would be. Usually they did not want to interfere in the suffrage controversy because of the division of sentiment among party leaders.

Now, however, the question is no longer hypothetical and the Attorney Generals will be forced to render a final judgment. If it is adverse, all the pressure which the women can exert will be applied to obtain special sessions of the Legislatures even in midsummer in order to permit the enrollment of women voters.

The leaders have in each case been asking for a simple piece of legislation to the effect that the same rules shall apply to the new women voters as cover the male voters who reach the age of 21. Usually evidence of residence in the State and citizenship is all that is required.

TALK OF MAKING QUALIFICATIONS IN THE SOUTH.  
The Southern States present an interesting phase of the question, for while very little is said about it at suffrage headquarters here, no one believes the Southern States will permit negro women to vote any more than they do men. The usual obstacles such as the payment of poll tax and educational qualifications are expected to be used. In fact, the suffrage workers used to tell the Southern Legislators that their fears of woman suffrage were bound to prove groundless because of this very power to determine the qualifications of voters which lies in the hands of the several States.

Although Tennessee's verdict has remained in doubt for the last two days and the women leaders have exhibited considerable nervousness about the prospect of a reconsideration by the Tennessee Legislature of her vote of Wednesday, all hope was by no means considered gone if the ratification by Tennessee did not materialize. Florida was selected as the next battleground. In that State a special session of the Legislature has

been expected. Moreover, a majority of the members of the State Legislature signed a petition urging the two United States Senators from that State to vote for suffrage when the Federal amendment was last voted upon.

## HARDING TO STICK MAINLY TO PORCH

No Bombast or Appeals to Prejudice, Says Daugherty, His Manager.

MARION, O., Aug. 20 (Senator Harding's campaign for the Presidency will go on as previously planned regardless of the strategy adopted by the Democrats, it was said here today by Harry M. Daugherty, a member of the Republican executive committee, after a conference with the nominee.

There was no intention he declared of abandoning the front porch policy, though some speeches would be made in other cities.

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cause," said Mr. Daugherty. "As far as the plans of the Republican party are concerned there will be no change in the campaign, as held out from time to time by Chairman Hays and the committee in conference with the candidate."

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